

Pastureland **Planning Resource Management Systems**

Successful resource management on pastureland is the correct application of a combination of practices that will meet the needs of the pastureland ecosystem – the soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources and the objectives of the landuser.

In planning a pastureland Resource Management System (RMS), the vegetative management practice Prescribed Grazing is the foundation on which the RMS is built. Prescribed Grazing (proper grazing heights and timing), nutrient management and pest management is essential to the proper management of pastureland. A grazing management plan is needed that balances the forage and feed to the animal numbers and describes the animal movement through the pastures. This plan will help meet the needs of the plants, animals, soil, water, and air and is essential to the formulation of a RMS on pastureland. Nutrient Management and Pest Management are planned to manage the fertility and the weed problems. Water for the animals of concern must be provided, thus making natural water or watering facilities essential to a pastureland RMS.

All other practices planned on pastureland are either to: (1) facilitate the application of the grazing management plan and are identified as DESIRABLE practices, or (2) establish, renovate, more intensively manage, or accelerate changes in the pasture and are identified as NEEDED practices. These NEEDED practices are planned when necessary to treat specific resource problems to meet the criteria for managing the soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

A RMS include combination of practices that are:

1. ESSENTIAL – Prescribed Grazing and livestock water is essential to successful pasture management and is always planned in the RMS.
2. NEEDED – These practices are planned when necessary to establish, renovate or more intensively manage the pasture, or accelerate changes in the pasture by treating specific resource problems to meet the RMS criteria.
3. DESIRABLE – These practices facilitate or enhance the vegetative management practices.

An RMS is developed by selecting a combination of the ESSENTIAL, plus the DESIRABLE and/or NEEDED practices, or both, whose combined effects will meet the criteria for each resource (soil, water, air, plant, and animal) and the objectives of the landuser. The following is a list of practices applicable to pastureland:

ESSENTIAL PRACTICES –

Prescribed Grazing (528A)
Nutrient Management (590)
Pest Management (595)

NEEDED PRACTICES –

Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
Brush Management (314)
Prescribed Burning (338)
Critical Area Planting (342)
Diversion (362)
Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
Firebreak (394)
Field Windbreak (392) – Field Border (386)
Access Road (560)
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548)
Land Clearing (460)
Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
Structure for Water Control (587)
Waste Management System (312)
Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)
Forage Harvest Management (511)
Dike (356)
Waste Utilization (633)

DESIRABLE PRACTICES –

Fence (382)
Pond ¹ (378)
Pond Sealing or Lining (521 A - E)
Water Well ¹ (642)
Pipeline (516)
Watering Facility ¹ (614)
Spring Development ¹ (574)
Animal Trails and Walkways (575)

¹ one or more practices will be essential when no water exists in newly created pastures.